

## **Immunization Registry Progress in Nebraska**

### **Immunization Coverage in Nebraska**

According to National Immunization Survey (NIS) data for July 1998 to June 1999, the percentage of children 19-35 months of age who were up-to-date with 4 doses of diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, 3 doses of poliomyelitis, 1 dose of measles, mumps, rubella vaccine was 83.8%.

### **Background**

Nebraska's statewide immunization information system (SIIS) began in 1995. The software used for this system was chosen through a competitive bid process conducted by the Douglas County Health Department with input and participation by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NHHS), Immunization Program. The system was first implemented in Omaha's public immunization clinics. At the urging of the Immunization Task Force – Metro Omaha, SIIS was piloted in several private sector sites in the metro areas well. In August of 1996, NHHS contracted with Douglas County to make the system available statewide in the public immunization clinics. To date the system is operational in all of Nebraska's public immunization clinics except those in Lancaster County. From the beginning, the cooperative venture between the Douglas County Health Department and the State of Nebraska has benefitted all Nebraska citizens.

### **Facts about the Nebraska Immunization Information System**

- The registry collects and manages immunization data for all but one public site in the state of Nebraska.
- The targeted age group for the registry is all children from birth through 12th grade.
- As of 04/18/2000 there were 1,335,696 immunizations documented for 133,552 children in Nebraska's SIIS

### **Some challenges and barriers affecting registry process**

As was the case with many other states, Nebraska's SIIS was greatly impacted by the bankruptcy of Human Soft, the company providing product support for the ADIOS software package. Feedback from the private sector pilot sites in Omaha indicates that several changes will need to be made to the software program before it can be implemented further in the private sector. In the interim, NHHS programmers have made adjustments to the program code in order to fix several other bugs, as well as make the program Y2K compliant. The entire system needs to be reviewed and possibly replaced, and it is hoped that these minimal adjustments made to the current system will work long enough for that process to be completed. In addition to the software problems mentioned above, funding for the SIIS has never been adequate to meet program needs. This was particularly evident when one employee quit unexpectedly shutting down the system for over three months. Without additional monies to both replace our old system and to adequately staff Nebraska's SIIS the future of this important endeavor is in doubt.

### **Helpful immunization and immunization registry contacts in Nebraska**

Registry Contact Person:

Name: T. Grey Borden  
Title: Immunization Program Manager  
Address: 301 Centennial Mall South  
P.O. Box 95044  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-5044  
Phone: (402) 471-3727  
Fax: (402) 471-6426  
Email: **gborden@hhs.state.ne.us**